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The Saturday Review Anisfield-Wolf Awards

AS THEY have for the past dozen years, the editors of SRL take pleasure in announcing the selection of two books for the Anisfield-Wolf Awards, given each year to the best works on racial relations published during the preceding year. The books chosen for 1948 are "Cry, the Beloved Country," by Alan Paton (Charles Scribner's Sons) and "Anatomy of Paradise: Hawaii and the Islands of the South Seas," by J. C. Furnas (William Sloane Associates).

Mr. Paton and Mr. Furnas will each receive prizes of \$1,000. The books were selected from more than fifty submitted for the prize—the greatest number in the history of the award—by a committee consisting of Dr. Henry Seidel Canby, chairman of the editorial board of SRL, Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, of New York University, and Professor Ralph Linton, of Yale University.

"'Cry, the Beloved Country,'" Dr. Canby writes, "has already had an extraordinary history. Written by a South African unknown to literature, and finding its way quietly into this country, it was picked up by good readers who recognized in the novel something extraordinary and were glad to be able to publish the fact to their friends and the public. It is a deeply religious, deeply pathetic book about an old Zulu in the service of the Anglican Church near Johannesburg and his adventures in endeavoring to combat the widespread

demoralization of his people by industrialization and get-rich-quick; and later his tragic search for his own children, who have left the beloved country and lost, or rather nearly lost, their souls. The feeling of the book is intense, and the background of Africa, particularly rural South Africa, extremely vivid and beautiful. The simplicity and sincerity of the narrative touch all readers. The prize to this book seemed triply earned, since it is not only a first-rate novel but also a highly significant study of the deterioration which can attend racial contacts heavy with prejudice and injustice, and shows the effect upon a still semi-primitive race of a highly technical, commercial, modern civilization."

The Anisfield-Wolf Awards were established by Edith Anisfield Wolf in memory of her father, John Anisfield, and her late husband, Eugene E. Wolf. They provide \$1,000 for each of the two books adjudged to be the best in the field of race relations, either in creative literature or in the social sciences. To be considered for the award for 1949, three copies of a book in published form should be sent to Professor Henry Pratt Fairchild, New York University, Washington Square, New York 3, N. Y.

